

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting a policy rule, which describes a condition and an action, from a policy server to a network node that is connected to the policy server via a network, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning a newly entered policy rule with an identifier;

detecting a policy rule existing in a repository that depends on the newly entered policy rule or on which the newly entered policy rule depends,

transmitting the newly entered policy rule with the assigned identifier to said network node,

wherein, if the detected policy rule has not been transmitted to said network node, the identifier thereof and the condition and the action described therein are transmitted with the newly entered policy rule to said network node; and if the detected policy rule has been transmitted with the newly entered policy rule to said network node, the identifier

thereof is transmitted to said network node, but the condition and the action described therein are not transmitted.

2. (Previously Presented) A method of transmitting a policy rule according to claim 1, wherein, if the detected policy rule has not been transmitted to said network node, the identifier thereof, the condition and the action described therein, and a first instruction that specifies network interface information on said network node to put the detected policy rule into action are transmitted to said network node; and if the detected policy rule has been transmitted to said network node, the identifier thereof and a second instruction that specifies network interface information on said network node to put the detected policy rule into action are transmitted to said network node.

3. (Previously Presented) A method of transmitting a policy rule according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

retaining the policy rules transmitted to said network node in storage of said policy server; and

checking the transmitted policy rules retained in said storage to see whether the policy rule that depends on the newly entered policy rule or on which the newly entered policy rule depends, detected by said detection step, has been transmitted to said network node.

4. (Original) A method of transmitting a policy rule according to claim 1, wherein said step of detecting a policy rule that depends on the newly entered policy rule or on which the newly entered policy rule depends detects a policy rule that references a variable defined in said newly entered policy rule or a policy rule that defines a variable that is used as a condition in said newly entered policy rule.

5. (Original) A method of transmitting a policy rule according to claim 1, wherein said network node is connected to a proxy server that converts the rule transmitted from said policy server into a rule in form that the converted rule can be executed on said network node and said network node receives the converted rule in this form.

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6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled).